

New Castle City Planning Commission Meeting
Minutes
January 23, 2017 -- 6:30 p.m.
City of New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: Michael Quaranta, Chair
David Baldini, Vice Chair
Joseph DiAngelo
Josephine Moore
Vera Worthy

Members Absent: David Bird
Jonathan Justice
Gail Seitz
Florence Smith

(There was no December meeting.)

Mr. Quaranta called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Roll call followed. A quorum was declared.

Minutes – Amendments were noted. **Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the 11/21/16 meeting were approved as amended.**

Budget – Mr. Quaranta reported that in the past the Planning Commission has been granted about \$10,000 per fiscal year. It appears the Planning Commission has overspent our budgeted amount. However, Mr. Quaranta said there is about \$10,000-\$11,000 that the City has expended from those monies for consulting services for the Riverwalk Apartment Project at 7th and Washington Streets. The builder of the apartment project has been billed and once payment is received the Planning Commission's budget will be credited thus returning the balance to where it should be this fiscal year.

Mr. Baldini asked is there will be funding available for the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Quaranta said that \$5,000 is budgeted. We have asked the City Planner, Chris Rogers, to give us a couple of items we can begin working on with that \$5,000. Mr. Quaranta said that commissioners have discussed different items, but nothing has been decided. As was previously reported we were not successful in our application for the Downtown Development District (DDD) grant and we may consider resubmitting another application. Mr. Quaranta stressed that the Comprehensive Plan is an important document that will require a lot of time and focus.

Neighborhood Building Blocks Fund (DDD) – Mr. Quaranta reminded commissioners that the Planning Commission thinks it is in the City's interest to reapply for a DDD grant. Under our former planner the City received monies from the State in the form of a grant to pay for the actual plan. Mr. Quaranta does not know if that funding source still exists or how much of what was done in the application process can be updated and used in a new application. Mr. Quaranta would like Commissioners to meet with Mr. Rogers to discuss further.

Public Comments – None

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Commissioners Comments

Mr. Quaranta referenced an article in the 1/19/17 edition of the News Journal dealing with retail stores, including specialty retail stores. He thinks that specialty retail stores may be attractive for mixed use areas in the future.

The Planning Commission's next meeting is 2/27/17. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m.

Debbie Turner
Stenographer